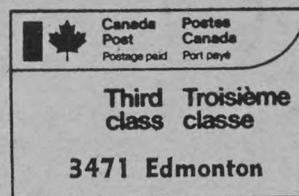


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Scandinavian Centre News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

VOL. XII No. 8

If undelivered, return to:
14220 - 125 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

TWELVE PAGES

AUGUST 1972

REYKJAVIK BAND PERFORMS

Reykjavik City Band comes to Canada

The Reykjavik City Band will give a one-hour concert at the bandshell in the Legislative grounds on August 11 at 5:30 p.m. A banquet will be held in their honor the same evening at the Scandinavian Centre where they will be welcomed by representatives from the province, the city and the Icelandic Society of Edmonton.

ICELANDERS IN CANADA

'The Icelanders in Canada' a book written by Judge Lindal is almost sold out, there are about 150 left. If you would like a copy, contact Mrs. Amy E. MacDonald, 1013-31 Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2K 0A8.

They are taking a tour of Western Canada to celebrate their 50th anniversary. They will fly from Iceland to Minneapolis, then travel by bus to Manitoba where they will visit Icelandic communities and entertain at Winnipeg and at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli. They will travel by train from Winnipeg to Edmonton, arriving here at 11:30 a.m., August 11. Train travel could be a new experience

for some of them as there are no railways in Iceland. They will travel by chartered bus from Edmonton to Vancouver and Seattle, then fly home to Iceland.

The band will perform at other points in Alberta as well as Edmonton. At Markerville on Saturday afternoon, August 12 there will be a program to honor the famous Icelandic poet, Stephan G. Stephanson. On Sunday afternoon there will be a concert at Heritage Park in Calgary and there will be a reception in the evening sponsored by the Leif Eiriksson Club of Calgary.

There will be celebrations

in Iceland in 1974 to commemorate 1100 years of settlement and the band members will be stirring up interest for Canadians to attend, particularly those of Icelandic extraction.

Nearly 100 years ago, Stephan G. Stephanson left his home in Iceland and emigrated to the U.S.A. He spent 15 years in Wisconsin and North Dakota. In Wisconsin he met and married his wife, Helga. In 1889, they settled in Markerville, Alberta. All through his life he wrote poetry in his native language, much of it about his homeland. His stature keeps growing in

Iceland where he is regarded as one of their greatest poets. Icelanders visiting Canada often make a trip to Markerville to visit his farm home which still stands and the cairn erected in his honor. He died in 1927 and is buried in Markerville. Many of his descendants live in that area and his youngest daughter, Mrs. Rosa Benediktson lives in Red Deer.

The Reykjavik City Band's visit to Markerville is actually the highlight of their tour and the program will include music, speeches and a floral tribute to the memory of the renowned poet.



Last summer, 150 people went from Winnipeg on an Air Canada charter for a month holiday in Iceland. Nearly half of the group went on guided bus tours conducted by Gisli Guðmundsson

(standing at the far right). The picture was taken in front of the hotel Edda at Akureyri in the north of Iceland. The Reykjavik City Band is celebrating their 50th anniversary

this year by taking a tour of Western Canada and the U.S.A. Gisli is in charge of arrangements, and the band will be in Alberta for three days. They will perform at the bandshell in

the Legislative grounds in Edmonton on Friday, August 11 at 5:00 p.m. They will also put on performances at Markerville on Saturday afternoon, at Heritage Park in Calgary on

Sunday afternoon and at the University Theatre at Calgary Sunday evening.

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

by Soren Sorensen

ANNUAL PICNIC

We hope you will all come to the picnic this year. It will take place on the 13th of August in the afternoon at Victoria Park in Edmonton. There will be something to do for everybody; lots of contests and games which everyone can participate in. We shall have a ladies' nail-driving race, and a ladies' rolling pin throwing contest; horse-shoe throwing and a softball tournament. Trophies will be given to the winners of each contest; and the trophies are just beautiful! (See picture below)



In 1971, Clara Johnson won the trophy for the ladies' nail-driving contest and the trophy for the ladies' rolling pin throwing contest was won by Tula Moisio. So do come, participate and enjoy yourself.

RADIO REPORT

The Scandinavian Show is on CFCW Radio Station every Saturday morning at 10:30—790kc on your AM dial. The Scandinavian Centre Report is broadcast on this program at approximately 11:25 a.m. William Peterson will give the report for the month of August.

If you have any news for the month of August, please call William Peterson. Phone: 466-5759.

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An example of Stephan G. Stephenson's handwriting taken

Swedes lose radio program

THE OLDEST RADIO PROGRAM
IN THE WORLD HAS CEASED

By Ove Kampe

Swedish Radio began broadcasting Jan. 7, 1925. Then there was only one program and it was for the children. So many children wrote to Swedish Radio and wanted more broadcasts for young listeners.

On Sept. 11, 1925, a new program started. It was called "Children's Letter-Box". The host of the program was Sven Jerring, the first radio-man in Sweden. During the last 47 years he has recited letters from many generations of Swedish boys and girls. Many of them have also come to his studio to sing many songs to the Swedish children.

Now Sven Jerring is 76 years old and in June he led his 1,785th "letter-box", which was his last. Some days later he married a nurse who has taken care of him since he got problems with a foot. The foot is one of the reasons that the oldest radio program now has ceased.

Many Swedes will miss it. Mr. Jerring was the first, oldest and greatest radio man in Sweden. But everything must come to an end.

(Many greetings from Hasjo in Jaemtland. We have a wonderful summer here. June has been very fine. Ove Kampe)



View of Stavanger in Norway's Fjord Country, the new "oil city" and Norway's third gateway from the USA. (Photo from Norwegian National Tourist Office.)

Letter to the Editor

THANK YOU NOTE

Re. Mrs. Ella Searl (deceased)

Dear Sir:

I would like a thank you note put in the paper:

To thank the Centre for its use.

To thank the Sons of Norway ladies for their lovely lunch.

Also to Pall Bearers.

Also for all the lovely flowers that were sent.

Also all those that donated to the Cancer Research.

Yours truly,

Al Searl

8907 - 163 St.

Edmonton

Phone 489-4533

Dear Sir or Madam:

Just a donation to the paper.

We enjoy reading it very much.

We enjoyed our trip very much to Norway. A trip we will never forget.

They did everything they could to make us comfortable on the plane. A job well done.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Ronning
Wainwright, Alta.

The Scandinavian Centre News

is published by The Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited, 14220 - 125 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta in conjunction with The Alberta TV Publications Ltd., 8411 - 103 Street, Edmonton and printed monthly by North Hill News (Edmonton) Limited, 11737 108 Avenue, Edmonton. Any article may be reproduced without permission if a copy of the publication is sent to the Managing Editor.

The deadline for material to be published in The Scandinavian Centre News is the 15th of each month. The paper is delivered the first of the month.

There is no subscription fee. Each member of The Scandinavian Centre receives a copy. Scandinavian ethnic groups, societies or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of names and addresses along with money at 6¢ a copy to cover postage.

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Manns. Rannsókn. Frélsi.

Stefna felagsins er, að styðja og útbreiða menning og síðferði, það síðferði, og þá trú, sem byggð er á reyngru þekking og visindum. Í stadinnum fyrir kirkjulegan flokkadrátt, vill það ekki mæmild og braðralag; í stadinnum fyrir ihugunatlausa jáðring, skyndamlega og óhindradar rannsókni; í stadinnum fyrir blinda trú, sjálftáða sannfaring, og í stadinnum fyrir heimskur og hreyfildóma, andlegt frélsi og framfót, sem engar hömlur séu flagnar.

Stofnsskrá Menningarfelagsins, rituð af Stephan G. Stephanssyni.

from the 1967 issue of the Icelandic National League magazine 'Timarit'.

ICELANDIC Newsletter

by Shirley Thorsteinson

Born: To Hulda and Tom Yelic, a daughter, Shauna Leigh Ann, June 20. A sister for Mark.

Niels and Gwen Bjarnason of Selkirk, Manitoba, with their children, Brent and Inga, visited the Campbells and the Yelics in June. Neil Campbell returned to Manitoba with them.

Steve and Audrey Benedictson, Stevie, Susan and David have been visiting family and friends in Red Deer and Edmonton. They will be returning shortly to Djakarta, Indonesia where Steve is stationed with California Standard Oil.

Barney and Ida Stefanson are home for the summer from Ghana, Africa. They are finding Edmonton a bit chilly (just like the rest of us!) They will be spending one more year in Ghana.

The Saga Singers are asked to note the date of the first fall practise: Tues. Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Scandinavian Centre. Prospective choir members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a questionnaire sent to all choir members regarding time preference for practises, in the

hope of eliminating Sunday evening.

The Olafsson household has been entertaining visitors from Iceland. Rognvaldur's parents, Olafur Gudmundsson and Hrefna Magnusdottir of Kopavogar, visited in May and June. Sigurður's parents, Julius Jonsson and Ingribjorg Einarsdottir arrived in June, accompanied by Sista's brother, Einar Juliussen, his wife, Valfridur Gisladottir and their son, Gisli Einarsson, of Chicago. They also visited Jasper and Banff.

A farewell party was held for Nina and Charles Smith, who are moving to Calgary. Members of the Saga Singers, with families, had a grand time at Couve's farm. Good luck and best wishes Chuck and Nina. We'll miss you.

For information regarding the Reykjavik City Brass Band, arriving Aug. 11, see articles elsewhere in this paper.

Dr. Marino Kristjansson is in Iceland with the Vancouver charter group.

Della and Gus Roland are in Switzerland with the Edmonton Youth Symphony Orchestra.

World Championship Chess

Chess aficionados around the world have been anxiously waiting for the meeting between Bobby Fischer of the United States and Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union to determine the World Chess Championship.

Prior to the announcement that the two champions would finally meet in Reykjavik, Iceland, the meeting, which some have called potentially the greatest chess battle of the century, was scheduled, then just as quickly cancelled.

Fischer, a prodigy who stunned the chess world by winning the United States Championships

when he was fourteen years old, has faced World Champion Boris Spassky five times, and has never won, losing three games and tying twice.

A maximum of twenty four games could have been played. As soon as one competitor earns 12 1/2 points the championship is decided and play is terminated. On point is awarded for victory and half a point for a tie. After much negotiating, Iceland became the host country offering \$125,000 in total prize money, the winner receiving \$78,125, the loser the rest.

On Books & Articles

ICELANDIC SAGAS AND MANUSCRIPTS

This book describes the great Icelandic cultural heritage in words and pictures. The author, Jonas Kristjansson, Director of the Icelandic Manuscript Institute, explains in a lively and interesting way what the sagas are about, how they originated and how they were preserved in the precious manuscripts, of which the book contains many colour photos. A beautiful and educative publication both for laymen and scholars, for people of all ages.

The book is published in three separate editions: English, Danish and Icelandic — and has been widely acclaimed.

Published by Saga Publishing Co. Laugavegur 18A, Reykjavik, Iceland P.O. Box 1238, Tel. 18950

Price \$13.80 Postage Free. Airmail \$16.80

ATLANTICA AND ICELAND REVIEW

Atlantica and Iceland Review is a quarterly magazine published independently since 1963. It covers Iceland and the surrounding area, which is in many ways unique in our modern world. It is an attractive publication, artistically produced, with interesting articles on nature and cul-

ture — and on the vigorous life of the Saga island. Beautifully illustrated in full color and black and white, ATLANTICA & ICELAND REVIEW gives you insight into an unpolluted oasis of modern society on the fringe of the habitable world.

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Did you know?

Iceland is the most sparsely populated country in Europe with an average of 2 inhabitants per square kilometer. Norway comes second with 11 inhabitants per square kilometer.

The last execution in Iceland was on the 12th of January, 1830.

The first cooperative society in Iceland was founded in Husavik in 1882.

Iceland changed over to right hand traffic on May 26th, 1968.

The first Icelandic families came to Alberta in 1888 and settled west of Innisfail. They named the place Tindastoll after a mountain in Iceland. In 1902, the post office was named Markerville after C.P. Marker, LL.D., Dairy Commissioner of Alberta.

Impressions and Realities of Iceland

By Bjorgvin Sigurdson

have numerous squares and small parks with a surprising number of trees and shrubs to beautify the city areas.

There are only two forests in Iceland, both of limited areas. The idea of reforestation is being seriously considered and experimental plots are in operation.

There is hardly any wildlife on the island—some foxes and a few reindeer imported some years ago. I wondered if it would be practical to ship in some bighorn sheep and mountain goats, but was told that any animals requiring pasture were not favored as the sheep forage in the high areas during the summer months. Migrating birds are plentiful during the summer months.

These impressions, formed in my youth, were of a harsh, difficult land, steeped in poverty, where the people eked out a bare living by hard work, wresting out an existence from small, unproductive acres of land, and from the sea with poor equipment.

I had pictured the land as mostly mountains, rising steeply from the sea, forming narrow fjords with small patches of arable land in the valleys of the streams draining into these fjords. I had pictured the interior as glaciers, rugged mountains and barren wastes. However, one could always feel that these pioneers in New Iceland had a strong national pride and a nostalgic love for the land of their birth.

On arriving in Iceland (landing at Keflavik) I was surprised not to see any mountains in the vicinity, and later pleasantly surprised at the extent of relatively level land in the southeast portion of the island, an area dotted with well-kept farms. This section of the island is mostly moors and lava fields. Areas have been leveled and fertilized and made into grasslands to produce pasture and hay for the stock. There are yet large areas to be developed, and some that cannot be made productive as the underlying rock is not yet decomposed.

The land is no garden of Eden. There are large areas covered by glaciers and barren desertlike moors. The climate, while not severe, is neither mild; summer temperatures in the 50 and 60 degrees F., while in the winter along the south or west coast slightly below freezing. This is due to the effect of the Gulf Stream, which flows around the island.

This climate is not favorable for raising grains. It is therefore imperative that the land be made to produce all necessary hay required to support the stock needed for successful farming.

The country is scenic—mountains, glaciers and hot springs, valleys dotted with farms, and stock grazing in the meadows. Lack of forest detracts from the scenic beauty of the land, but numerous streams, waterfalls and areas of shrubs compensate somewhat for the otherwise baldish look.

The cities are modern and kept very clean. Reykjavik (population around 100,000) is modern, the older sections rather quaint, but it is delightful to wander about its narrow streets and shops. The newer sections are modern with wide streets and nice buildings. There are no slums in Reykjavik and the only pollution is from motor vehicles of which there is a great number, it seems. Akureyri (population about 10,000) is also modern and kept very clean. Both cities

erature at the right level. These greenhouses produce vegetables, flowers and some fruit. This is getting to be quite an industry in itself.

There appears to be very little unemployment in Iceland. This is partly due to some state prospects, such as a cement plant at Akranes, which produces most of the country's cement requirements, also a fertilizer plant to meet the nutritional needs of the farmlands.

Iceland is poor in mineral resources. However, they are rich in energy resources, such as the potential in water and thermal power. These have only been slightly harnessed as yet; water power for electrification, and the thermal power to heat the cities and some other homes and greenhouses. Another growing industry is tourism—this is reflected in the number of bookstores, there must be more bookstores in Reykjavik than any other city of similar size. One can obtain books in any of the languages of the larger European countries as well as the Scandinavian. There are several souvenir and jewelry stores. Wool and wood products, as well as lava ceramics have created jobs for many people and seem to sell well.

What impressed me most on my visit to Iceland was the people. It is truly remarkable that in a country which is difficult, both by location and character, that the people have attained a culture and living standard comparable to the best.

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Stressing the importance of a large vocabulary, the English teacher told his class, "Use a word ten times and it will be yours for life." In the back of the room a pert blond closed her eyes, and was heard chanting under her breath, "Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred, Fred."



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SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



by Anne Vold

COMING EVENTS

Sat, July 29: Klondike Dance at the Viking Room in the Scandinavian Centre. Tickets at \$2.00 each for reservations phone 476-5922, 455-5371, 422-5990.

Wed. Aug. 23: Social Evening at the Nordic Room in the Scandinavian Centre.

SPORTS

Had a nice turn out. They played ball and prizes were given to all the lucky home runners. The prizes were potato chips and chocolate bars. They also had a Peanut Scramble for everybody. Thanks to Bro. Thore Selvig for the donations.

Stan Hafso was presented with a Membership Plaque during the picnic.

JUNIOR LODGE

There will be no meetings for July and August. Next meeting will be Sept. 10 at the Scandinavian Centre.

Sis. Betty Travis was cabin counsellor for Junior High United Church Camp at Surprise Lake. Garth Travis will be coun-

sellor in training at the following camp and James Travis will be chore boy for the same camp.

VISITORS

Mrs. Belle Jerde from Bottineau, North Dakota, visited the Sons Of Norway Picnic and sent the following letter:

"I enjoyed being at your Sons Of Norway picnic. It was good of you to invite me. When I report on Calgary, I shall tell about your Centre."

Mrs. Belle Jerde

Mr. Karsten Stangeland's aunt is visiting from Norway.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Olafson entertained Arne and Mary Gulbarendsen and her four sisters, also the Sommerstad family from Norway, at a coffee party on June 29.

Olie and Anne Vold entertained Olie's sister Mrs. May MacDonald and her daughter, Linda, from Prince George, B.C.

Emmeh and Gladys Clark entertained her brother O.J. Quale and his wife from Swift Current, Sask. They were also visited by her cousin, Mr. and Mrs.

Next month's reporter is Eileen Millang please contact her at 475-5920.

Jack Bradley from Milestone, Sask.

Mrs. Tyra Baar from Sweden is visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Elgstrand.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Aos of East Grand Forks, Minn., visited Bro. Harv Haugen and took a tour through the park.

Al and Eva Berg are holidaying in B.C.

HOSPITAL

Mrs. Esther Richardsen is in Royal Alec Hospital. We wish her speedy recovery.

OBITUARY

Our sympathy to: Bro. Kalmar Amdam on the loss of his father, Mr. Ole Bastian Amdam.

Bro. Barney Oyen on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Bertine Oyen.

Bro. Edward Veis on the loss of his father, Mr. George Veis.

Sis. Anne Vold and family attended the funeral services of her mother at Willingdon, Alberta.

When one travels, there is a tendency to be critical of the things that are different than ours, but we should bear in mind that one of the basic reasons that we travel is to see something different. Norway's culture is old, ours has hardly begun. Norwegians are held back by traditions of the past, whether they like to believe it or not; whereas we have no such tradition to hold us back. Therein lies the reason for some of the differences. For example, we stayed in an apartment in Fredrikstad that had an outside toilet, such as I was used to for the first half of my life. On the other hand, one loves to browse around in the shops that are filled with things traditionally Norwegian—sweaters, woodcraft, ornamented with rose-making, silverware, tinware, beautiful chinaware, etc.

After four weeks in Norway, I was beginning to wonder if I could speak English again. I even learned to tell a few good Norwegian stories, some related to the difficulty of breaking away from old traditions. Travel is good for all of us. The exchange of ideas is beneficial to us and to all those dear relatives and friends we visited. I hope my fellow travellers aboard Wardair's Boeing Jet will share their views and impressions through the medium of the Scandinavian News.

In conclusion, Selma and I feel happy to be back to our home, and our friends. We more fully than ever appreciate the opportunities that are ours in this new rich land of Canada. We appreciate that we have a Scandinavian Centre Organization, that has made possible our chartered flights, and the many other cultural pursuits that enrich our lives. On board our plane there were many who offered a donation to the Scandinavian News. I appeal to all our readers to not only support the news, but the Scandinavian Centre in all its cultural pursuits.

Alvin

Nordstrom

LOCAL MAN ATTENDS
LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD
REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Alvin Nordstrom, 6812-94A Avenue, Edmonton, was among nearly 200 district representatives of Lutheran Brotherhood, Minneapolis-based fraternal insurance society, who attended a regional sales conference June 22-26 at Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming.

Nordstrom is a member of the Norman Seib Agency, headquartered at Sherwood Park.

Top Lutheran Brotherhood officials, including Arley R. Bjella, chairman of the board and chief executive, and Woodrow P. Langhaug, president, were among speakers. Leading representatives from various parts of the nation also participated in panel discussions.

The great political issue was EEC—The European Economic Council. Shall we join them or not? On September 8, 1972, they will decide this issue by plebiscite. The farmer is definitely opposed, the industrialist is for it, while labour seems to be split down the middle. The average Norwegian fears the loss of independence, and my guess is that they will turn it down.

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VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Pat Hyde

The regular meeting of the lodge was held on Sat., July 1, at Vasaclub, Pigeon Lake. The meeting was well attended, and President, Peter Johnson presided. Members welcomed were Mrs. Signe Jonson of Valhalla Lodge, New Westminster, B.C., who is visiting her niece, Mae Rushton.

JOHN JAROTT and **MARTHA DAHL** are still on our sick list; however, no other Vasa members were reported sick this month.

DON JOHNSON reported on the visits of St. Joseph's Hospital patients to Vasaclub, and how much these people appreciate the outings there.

GAIL SUND, our candidate for Scandinavian Centre Queen, was complimented on her fine representation in the Queen Contest, which was held on July 4th.

The Cultural Report from **BENGT CHRISTIANSEN** was again very interesting, dealing with an excerpt from "Svenska Amerikanaren Tribunen" (The Swedish American Newspaper). The article concerned the progress of Europe's longest bridge which is being constructed between Oland and the Swedish mainland. Our Cultural Leader also reported on new legislation which will give a change of status to the Swedish monarchy. It was pointed out that because of the popularity of the present king, this change would not take place during his reign.

The Lunch Committee—**MARY PEARSON**, **ALMA SAMUELSON**, and **HELGA JOHNSON**—are to be thanked for their contribution at the close of the meeting.

The Klondike Dance on Sat. night (July 1) was a great success—members danced in their Klondike finery, and were later treated to a delicious midnight Pancake Supper, convened by **CLARENCE** and **HELEN BERG**. Thanks are in order to the Berg family and their able "pancake assistants", who made the supper so enjoyable.

On Sun., July 2, at the lake, a Strawberry Tea dessert party was held, as well as the "Country Store" white elephant sale. Over \$60.00 was collected, with "customers" purchasing everything from fudge to alarm clocks!

A miscellaneous shower was held on Sunday, for Miss Miriam Klyehak and Mr. Lorne Weiss. The shower was put on by **PAULA LINDBERG** and **EVELYN MODINE**.

The Children's Camp was in session during the week of July 9 to 15 with twenty-five children attending. A full report on the activities and fun of that week will appear in next month's issue. **VASA GLIMPSES**

Vasa members have been privileged to have many visitors during the summer months:

MONA and **JOHN CUMBERPATCH** are enjoying a visit with Mona's parents, **MR. and MRS. ROSEN**, who come from Umio, Sweden. As well as being present at Pigeon Lake, they have plans to visit parts of Alberta, including the mountains of Banff.

News from Norway

Major gas find confirmed

The Frigg natural gas field, believed to be one of the largest in the North Sea area, was declared commercially exploitable at the meeting of the Petronord Group on April 25th. The field is situated just inside the Norwegian sector, 120 miles from Karmoy, Norway, 125 miles from the Shetland Islands and 250 miles from Aberdeen, Scotland.

Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian industrial concern which operates the Alnor aluminum plant at Karmoy, has now decided to increase its holding in the Petronord Group from 13.5 to 34.6 per cent, making it the single biggest participant in the consortium. The Norwegian Government is also exercising its option to take a 5 per cent share in the Petronord Group. The other participants are the French oil companies Elf, Aquitaine and Total.

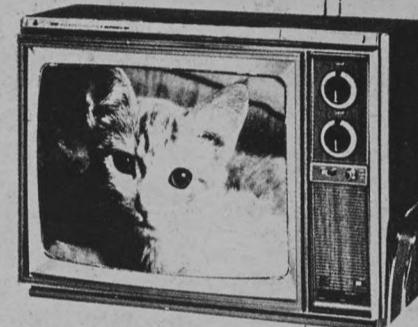
The Friggs gas is of the so-called dry type, with a high methane content, very suitable for generating electricity and for production of, for instance, ammonia. Norsk Hydro is a major producer of ammonia for chemical fertilizers.

Alcohol consumption in Norway computed in terms of pure alcohol, was 14,476,000 liters in 1971, an increase of 4.6 per cent from the year before. Average consumption per inhabitant 15 years and older was just over one gallon of pure alcohol. By categories, liquor consumption rose by 1.3 per cent, wine consumption by 12.4 per cent and beer consumption by 7.3 per cent. Total retail cost of alcoholic beverages was 345 million dollars, an increase of 11.3 per cent over 1970.

A new film series written by Sir Kenneth Clark includes a 45-minute film covering the works of Edvard Munch the founder of expressionism and Norway's best-known painter. Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, this and five other films in the *Pioneers Of Modern Painting* series will be distributed free of charge by the Extension Service of the National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C. 20565) to colleges and universities with enrollments under 2,000.

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52 Issues



SMILE

Two things are bad for the heart—running upstairs and running down people.

"My hair is falling out," admitted the timid man to the chemist. "Can you suggest something to keep it in?" "Certainly," replied the chemist. "Here's a cardboard box."

Cultural Heritage Conference



(Left to right) Premier Peter Lougheed, Mrs. Helga Rennie (Scandinavian Centre), Box 273 Lancaster Park, Mrs. Jonina Eaman (Icelandic Society), 13315

138 St., and M.L.A. Gordon Stromberg.

(Alberta Government Photographic Services, Bureau of Public Affairs, Edmonton, Alta.)

By Patricia R. Algie
Information Office
Dept. of Culture, Youth and Recreation

Premier Peter Lougheed, speaking to delegates attending a Cultural Heritage Conference recently at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, said, "Our administration will be as responsive as possible to the growth and development of the cultural diversity in the Province of Alberta."

"There is tremendous strength in a Canadianism that reflects cultures as extensive and broadly based as we see here today," he told some 400 delegates and observers from associations and communities across Alberta.

"It's your conference," said the Premier. "It's a conference where we as government are looking for practical ways in which we can assure the growth and development of the cultural heritage of this province," he told delegates.

"One of the purposes of the conference is going to be to set some priorities but also to assure that delegates become aware of each other's views. And that in itself," the Premier said in his opening remarks "will be a very significant achievement for the conference".

Prior to the three-day meeting, June 16 to 18, more than 60 reports were submitted to the

provincial government. They were the result of a province-wide publicity advertised invitation to individuals and organizations for the submission of briefs and suggestions to assist in the preparation and planning of the Cultural Heritage Conference.

The submissions raised several common problems and issues. Conference delegates were given an opportunity to select the topic and discussion group related to those problem areas which was of most interest to them.

During the three days of in-depth discussion and exchange of views, some twenty discussion groups focused on education and language, Canadianism, arts development and cultural development, governments and institutions, human rights and values, and communication and the media. A final report of the recommendations from all the discussion groups was presented to the conference at the closing plenary session, Sunday afternoon, June 18.

A conference highlight was the Cultural Heritage Festival on Saturday evening, June 17, in the theatre of the Student's Union Bldg. A programme of twelve performances by talented Alberta dancers, singers and ensembles in costumes representing many cultures was presented for conference delegates by the Alberta Folk Arts Council and the Alberta Department of Culture. Youth and

Recreation.

Prior to the Festival, conference delegates were the guests of the Government of Alberta at a banquet hosted by Premier Peter Lougheed and Mrs. Lougheed in Lister Hall on the campus of the University of Alberta.

At the banquet, Howard Palmer, a Lethbridge author, presented a copy of his recently-published book "Land Of The Second Chance" to Premier Lougheed. Mr. Palmer's book is a comprehensive study of 18 ethnic and religious groups in Southern Alberta.

An authentic polish folk costume from the District of Krakow, Poland, was presented to Horst Schmid, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation for the permanent collection of the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta. Mrs. Irene Domecki made the presentation on behalf of the Polish Canadian Federation, Alberta Branch.

Speaking to delegates at the closing session of the conference, Horst Schmid, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation, thanked the delegates for their contributions to the conference in thirty languages.

Mr. Schmid, told the delegates "Culture, as you must all be aware by now is many things—languages, music, art, dancing, drama, even economics: lower income citizens have a different culture than the rich. Every people has a characteristic culture of its own, and ultimately, many cultures evolving together produce a distinct and new culture," he said.

"That is where we stand in Alberta: examining the more than 50 ethno-cultures from which we came — to preserve the best from each — to build an enriched, distinct, Canadian culture of our own."

The Minister said "Here we are concerned with freedom with freedom FOR something — in our case, a full cultural life for the self-fulfillment of the person and the enrichment of our whole society. Freedom — let us repeat it — is the keystone to Alberta's cultural life policy.



Hostesses at Cultural Heritage Conference.

"Do not be afraid to look back", he told conference delegates. "If we cannot look back on our heritage with pride, we cannot find much meaning in our present or our future. If you are ashamed of what your fathers were, you may well be afraid of what your children will become.

"What I say to you is that our fathers came here not to find what they were leaving — another Ukraine, another Germany, another France — but to build a life, a common culture, richer and better, more truly expressed in freedom than could ever have been theirs in any other land."

"On that never-to-be-forgotten basis," he said, "we build. That is why we called this Cultural Heritage Conference into being: to preserve the good things of our cultural past, to enrich our cultural present, to enhance our cultural tomorrow."

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

PRELIMINARY REMARKS OF THE HONOURABLE HORST A. SCHMID TO HIS SPEECH MADE AT THE CLOSE OF THE ALBERTA CULTURAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE — JUNE 18, 1972

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Senators, Honourable Ministers, MLA's, distinguished delegates, and observers:

As you probably know, I have wandered through the workshops and I was impressed; I was touched by the humanity which went through every one of them. I should also like to say that some of the main items I picked up—and I mention only two of them—will be taken immediately into consideration.

One of them will be a publication—of which all of you will be informed—to give every representative group in Alberta a chance to write to one central office—a publication that will go out to people that you want it to go to. If others won't do this for us, we will do it ourselves.

My second item is an advisory

council. I am sure many of you here have certain ideas about it: how it could be set up, how it could be most representative. It may not be included in the recommendations—I didn't have time to look for it. If it isn't, don't forget: you are all part of Canada, you are all part of Alberta, so we have very much the right to make a demand in this case. Write your Minister, and if necessary, call me on the telephone, and let me know how you think the advisory council could be set up and could work best to represent all the people of our princess province; and I'll make sure it is brought to the attention of those looking after it. This is one of the things that I would like to see accomplished within the next month or two—providing, of course, that my cabinet colleagues agree, in which case it would then be part of government policy . . . I am quite sure you will be happy about this recommendation: the only thing now is the question of how best to set this up.

KEYSTONE OF OUR CULTURAL TOMORROW

(Speech Closing the Alberta Cultural Heritage Conference)
Sunday, June 18, 1972

by the Hon. Horst A. Schmid Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

A week or so ago — on Tuesday, June 6, 1972, to be exact — a woman died in Canada. In all probability, you didn't know her. Certainly I didn't know her. There were more than 400 people at her funeral. They didn't know her either — but they wept openly at her funeral. They wept — even as you and I might well weep a little — because, in a strange way, we all knew her.

Her name was Alicia Wiercioch — Polish. She was 36 years old. She had two children. She died by her own hand, from an overdose of cockroach killer.

She was not eligible to remain in Canada, so the day before she was to be deported back to Poland, she chose the only way left to her to stay here. Buried in a cheap wooden coffin, she belongs forever to Canadian soil.

Now part of our Canadian heritage, Alicia Wiercioch — unknown to any of us — left a message for all of us involved in this Cultural Heritage Conference. All we need is the heart . . . and the good common sense . . . to understand.

At this point, I wish to thank each of you for your part in this Conference. I know how tiresome it is at times to prepare still another brief — belabor what at times seems to be the obvious.

So, as a new Minister in a new government that is trying sincerely to deal with the problems and desires of its people; I thank you for that labor, that patience and, finally, the faith that this Conference is worthwhile.

I have read the briefs you submitted in advance. To comment on them at this stage — after your days of discussion and soul-searching — would only be repetitious to you and rather pointless on my part. Just be assured, delegates, that I appreciate the labor behind them — and I thank you for the sin-

cerity in which they were submitted.

Culture — as you must all be aware by now — is many things Language . . . Music . . . Art . . . Dancing . . . Drama . . . even economics: lower income citizens have a different culture than the idle rich. Culture is "life and legacy", as Ontario's Provincial Secretary for Social Development, Robert Welsh, told delegates to that province's Heritage Congress earlier this month.

Every people has a characteristic culture of its own; and, ultimately, many cultures — evolving together — produce a distinct and new culture.

That is where we stand in Alberta: examining the more than 50 ethno-cultures from which we came . . . to preserve the best from each . . . to build an enriched, distinct, Canadian culture of our own.

It is not simply a "nice" gesture on our part. In an age when human needs are crying desperately for priority position, we MUST do it — for the good of our souls, for our self-fulfillment as individuals, for a legacy to the Alberta we must leave behind, to our children's and our grandchildren's keeping.

Let us examine the philosophy behind this — to see if we can find a keystone for Alberta's cultural tomorrow. If we do, it will make our work in the months ahead not only that much easier — it will make it wonderfully worthwhile.

Life is all a piece — and culture is simply an exterior expression of our lives, individual and collective.

What one has been is related to what one becomes. To cast off completely the cultural traditions of the past is a tragic — a dangerous — thing. To bind ourselves completely to the past is equally hazardous — the sure road to disunity and distrust.

The man who tries to disassociate himself from his past is an unknown to himself . . . and in many ways, he rebels against the unknown. He lacks a sense of belonging — a sense of continuity with his own people. Yet he who will not recognize that culture is also a changing living thing is likewise at war with himself and with society. He is changed to the past and

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Opening session of conference.
(Premier Peter Lougheed in front row.)

forever at odds with the present, a source of great unhappiness to himself, a stumbling block to his children and his neighbors.

The Keystone to Alberta's cultural future is found in one wonderful word: "freedom". Even that is sometimes only dimly understood.

Here, in Alberta, we can reasonably state that we do have many of the freedoms for which our fathers came — freedom from fear . . . freedom from want, for example.

But freedom is more than a negative thing. Freedom in our part of the world is no longer equated with escape FROM hunger, poverty, outright oppression. These — thank God — we have left behind.

Here, now, we are concerned with freedom FOR something — in our case, a full cultural life for the self-fulfillment of the person and the enrichment of our whole society. Freedom — let us repeat it — is the keystone to Alberta's cultural life policy.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I should like to elaborate on that for just a few moments.

We know that the laws of science and mathematics are real. We are quite willing to concede — to take random examples — that the Arabs gave us our present system of numbers (better, we feel, than Roman numerals). Greece gave us our concept of democracy. The U.S. introduced the world to the tremendous power of technology and mass production.

Let us stop right here. How many countries, over how many centuries, contributed to the great American technological advance? They are limitless. The Egyptians, long gone, who invented the wheel and axle . . . the Renaissance scholars who spread learning . . . the Germans who propagated printing and, hence, the swift accumulation and distribution of knowledge . . . the English with their inventions of the Industrial Revolution . . . I could spend the entire evening simply illustrating the contribution of all peoples to the scientific and technological riches that world society takes for granted today.

But it is only now — perhaps because we have finally solved the age-old problem of production — that it has dawned on us that, as scientific laws are real, so social laws are equally real—and society, down to its smallest unit, is starving for their recognition and application in the lives of all.

Our cultural heritage is real. As indicated earlier, it is the sum and substance of our social expression — reaching into the dis-

(Alberta Government Photographic Services, Bureau of Public Affairs, Edmonton, Alta.)

tant past . . . influencing our lives today . . . pre-shaping the lives of your children of tomorrow.

It is not just a game with words — not just a new game at which politicians must play.

Consider the stage of the world today — where lack of meaning in life leads even teenagers, young and vibrant with the fibre of living, to jump off the High Level Bridge — I am sure each of you will believe that knowledge of our social laws — and recognition of the central role that culture plays in them — it is the most important business in which we can be engaged today.

We can begin by asking ourselves from whence we came. Maybe you have done this already — in some measure — around your own fireside. But beware of seeing only what you want to see — of looking into the past with a romantic and unrealistic eye. Look back honestly — see what you must see — see who your forebears were — see what brought them here.

For all that, do not be afraid to look back. Were your forefathers the native Indians — "the people of the plains"? Did they come from a white-washed cottage in Bessarabia? Or from a little village on the Rhine? Were they Irishmen who sang in the turf bogs to keep alive and fresh their own illustrious history? Were they the French who sailed on wooden ships — so low they could touch the water's foam — to find freedom in a new land? Were they Chinese? People from the Philippines?

If you understand what I am asking you, you will also understand what I am saying to you . . . that if we cannot look back on our heritage with pride, we cannot find much meaning in our present or our future. If you are ashamed of what your fathers were, you may well be afraid of what your children will become.

The next thing to do is ask yourself why they came. This is what we sometimes forget. This is the message Alicia Wiercioch has given us as her last legacy.

What I say to you is that our fathers came here not to find what they were leaving — another Ukraine, another Germany, another France — but to build a life — a common culture — richer and better — more truly expressed in freedom — than could ever have been theirs in any other land.

On that never-to-be-forgotten basis, we build. That is why we called this Cultural Heritage Conference into being: to preserve the good things of our cultural past . . . to enrich our cultural present . . . to enhance our cultural tomorrow.

In other words, we fulfill the concept — unspoken though it may have been — that our pioneers brought with them in their hearts.

As a simple example, we enjoy the art of William Kurelek — not because he is Ukrainian, and Ukrainian-Canadian rural life is the theme of his paintings — but because he is a great artist, and his art is distinctly Canadian.

We take pride — and well we may — in the masterful playing of Marek Jablonski — more so, perhaps, than if his name was Mark Jones.

Is there anyone who does not thrill to the pageantry of our native Indians riding in full regalia at the annual Calgary stampede?

These are illustrations only of the social law I mention: that though the individual finds meaning and self-fulfillment in his own particular cultural heritage, it can only be truly rewarding to him when it is shared — offered to, and accepted by — the rest of our society.

An English writer — Sir George Parkin — knew well the value of the cultural tradition.

"Fortunate the state," he said, "which, looking back upon its early builders, find their characters stamped with the unquestioned hallmark of truth and honour; finds their actions controlled by clear purpose and high principle. As an example and an inspiration the memory of such builders cannot be too carefully preserved or too closely studied."

Well — you and I, ladies and gentlemen, unworthy though we may feel, are the builders of our cultural tomorrow here in Alberta.

Each of us has a responsibility. Each must have respect for the rights of others. Each must see in his neighbor the dignity and worth he wants in his life for his own. Each must play his part — even as we in government will try to play our part: through programs and services wherever feasible, but especially in the world of the arts — the world all of us share in common, and which so wonderfully enrich us all.

I have faith that we will think beyond the moment . . . that we will not ask the absurd or the unreal . . . that we will build well . . . that, remembering what brought our fathers here and their sacrifices to build the Alberta we share today . . . we will work in the only way that befits Albertans — together on that keystone of true freedom — that we may pass on to our children a finer, richer cultural legacy than even our own fathers dreamed of.

Kitchen Corner

SARDINES AND CELERY JOIN FORCES

Norway's smoky sardine and the international favorite, Celery Victor salad, join forces for a quick and elegant menu idea. The simple makings for this new flavor pairing are basic items on most refrigerator and food shelves. Broth-simmered celery hearts are topped with silvery, nutrition-packed Norway sardines.

And for that special dinner or buffet party, Celery Hearts Victoria is a hostesses' dream. It's easy on the budget and it's made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator until serving time. The short aging period actually develops and improves the flavor of this Nordic-specialty.

CELERY HEARTS VICTORIA (Serves 6)

2 1/2	cups chicken broth
1 3/4	teaspoon salt
4	peppercorns
1	lemon slice
1	tablespoon chopped green pepper
1/2	bay leaf
3	hearts of celery, halved
1/2	cup salad oil
2 1/2	tablespoon white wine vinegar
1/4	teaspoon dry mustard
1/4	teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning
1/8	teaspoon paprika
2	tablespoons chopped pimento
1	tablespoon chopped chive
1	Crisp lettuce
1	can (3 3/4 oz.) Norway sardines

Combine chicken broth, 1 teaspoon salt, peppercorns, lemon and bay leaf in a skillet; heat to boiling. Add celery hearts, cover, and simmer for 10 minutes, or until tender-crisp. Drain, cover and chill. Combine oil, vinegar, remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt, mustard, lemon-pepper, paprika, pimento, green pepper and chives in small jar; cover and shake thoroughly to blend. Arrange celery hearts on crisp lettuce on chilled salad plates. Top with drained sardines. Spoon dressing over all.

TANGY SUMMER SALAD (You can use 1/2 recipe)

This salad is so cool and refreshing on hot summer days.

2	pkg lime jello
3 3/4	cups hot water
2	tablespoons vinegar
2	teaspoon grated onion
1	teaspoon salt
	Dash pepper
1/2	cup sliced cucumbers
1	cup cottage cheese
1/4	cup finely diced carrots
1/4	cup finely diced cucumber

Dissolve jello in hot water. Add vinegar, onion, salt and pepper. Turn 1 cup of mixture into a loaf pan and chill until slightly thickened. Arrange cucumber slices in this mixture. Chill until firm. Chill remaining jello mixture until slightly thickened. To 1 1/2 cups, add cottage cheese and diced vegetables. Turn into the firm Jello. Chill until firm, then pour remaining 1 1/4 cup of jello over cheese and vegetable layer. Chill until firm.

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LEIF EIRIKSSON CLUB

By Margrit Geppert

NEWS FROM CALGARY

A few members of the Leif Eiriksson Club have been busily making arrangements for the forthcoming visit of the Reykjavik City Band on Aug. 13. Members are invited to meet the band in Markerville on Sunday morning and accompany the guests to Calgary in the early afternoon. The band will then proceed to Heritage Park where they have been invited to play by the Heritage Park Society at 3:00 p.m. or as soon after as circumstances allow. Members of the band will then be able to look closer at Heritage Park, but this is the one place in Calgary that the tour counselor, Gisli Gudmundsson, definitely wanted them to see, having visited it last year and became enthusiastic about it.

The band will then be the

guests of the Leif Eiriksson Club at a smorgasbord in the Caravan Hotel, where they will stay overnight. Members of the club are welcome to join and visit the guests, but are asked to let the secretary, Amy Macdonald, know if they intend to have dinner. We will extend the dinner to a social evening if the band members are so inclined.

The TV networks have shown considerable interest in the band. It is hoped that they will get some coverage on all stations. They have been offered half-an-hour's program time on one of the stations, if they will come for taping the next day. The band members have agreed to postpone their departure for a couple of hours to make this TV appearance possible.

All considered, we hope this will be a very nice visit!

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Christians are responsible for their actions on the road as well as off the road. Roy Pearson once wrote Ten Commandments for the Road, and they are repeated here with the hope they may help us see our responsibility when behind the wheel of a car. Here they are:

- Thou shalt hold nothing but thy steering wheel—neither a baby on thy lap nor a babe in thine arms.
- Thou shalt not make unto

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MEET THE SCANDINAVIANS

Getting to know the Scandinavians is easy, as thousands of Americans and Canadians have discovered through the special program which has been established in the four capital cities and also in a number of provincial towns. This program is a free service, designed especially for the tourist who wants to be a good-will ambassador or who wishes to combine study and business with pleasure travel.

Three points to keep in mind: First, the program does not include lodgings in private homes, or meals, though invitations to tea or coffee are not unusual. Second, the best contacts are made outside the peak summer season, when many Scandinavians are away on their own vacations. Third, since the program is based on individual visitors, groups cannot be accepted under this plan, neither can professional contacts be established. Except for the Sweden at Home program, no advance arrangements are made, and you should register soonest after arrival. Remember that it may take up to 48 hours to make the arrangements. Fact sheets are available from:

The Scandinavian National Tourist Offices,
505 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Meet The Danes

Danish Tourist Board, Bangsstræde 7, Copenhagen. Arrangements can be made in Arhus, Alborg, Odense, and Roskilde, and a number of other cities by personal application to the local tourist office. No arrangements can be made in Copenhagen. All Meet the Danes arrangements must be made after arrival.

Find The Finns

Finnish Tourist Board, Mikkeli 13 A, Helsinki 10. Arrangements can be made by personal application. In Helsinki to the Finnish Tourist Board, in Lahti, Tampere, Turku, Jyväskylä and Savonlinna to the local tourist office. Advance booking is not possible.

In Iceland there are no such arrangements.

Know The Norwegians
Apply in person at the Oslo Trav-

SPORTS

CORNER

by Ole Jensen

Game No. 6

On June 16 at Coronation, Dania vs. M.F.C. Edmonton. Dania opened the game with an early score of 1 goal and kept the lead for the first thirty minutes. Dania then scored one more goal and then M.F.C. Edmonton had one goal. There was no score in the second half. Dania played well even with some good players injured. Final score was 2-1 for Dania. Goals were scored by Fritz Wolf, 1 and Ken Andersen, 1.

Game No. 6

Dania vs. Lions at Jasper Place Bowl and Dania did a fine job as Lions had only been defeated once before playing against Dania. Dania still had some of their good players with injuries but won the game quite easily with the score 4 to 1. Dania is now No. 1 in the second Division. Goals were scored by Peter Jensen, 1, Otto Berg, 1, Alex Szywkin, 1, and John Miller, 1.

el Association, Radhusgata 19, Oslo 1, provided you stay minimum 4 days in Oslo — an appointment is made for you with an English-speaking Norwegian who shares your own business, cultural or hobby interests. Arrangements can also be made by personal application to the local tourist offices in Lillehammer, and Stavanger.

Sweden At Home

Stockholm Tourist Association, Sverigeshuset, Hamngatan 27, Stockholm. Arrangements can also be made to Gothenburg, Malmö, Uppsala, Växjö, and a number of other cities by personal application to the local tourist office. Advance arrangements are recommended. A special form is available from the Swedish National Tourist Office.

CURRENCY

There are no restrictions on importing Canadian currency, but visitors should declare their dollars on arrival to avoid difficulty in taking out unspent amounts. Only limited amounts of some Scandinavian currencies may be taken in or out; in any case, traveler's checks are most convenient, as they are accepted almost everywhere. Scandinavian currencies differ in value, but are easy to figure out as the denominations of coins and bills are mostly multiples of five and ten as here. As per Nov. 1, 1971, the rate of exchange is as follows:

\$1 — 7.50 Danish kroner	— \$0.13
\$1 — 4.26 Finnmarks	
\$1 — 87.12 Icelandic kronur	
\$1 — 7.00 Norw. kroner	
\$1 — 4.96 Swedish kronor	

1 Danish krone	— \$0.13
1 Finnmark	— \$0.23
1 Icelandic krone	— \$0.01
1 Norw. krone	— \$0.14
1 Swedish krone	— \$0.20

Detailed conversion tables are available in most Scandinavian banks and tourist offices.

CUSTOMS

Scandinavian customs inspections are smooth and courteous. Personal effects will never cause any difficulty. It is recommended that such personal valuable possessions as portable radios, cameras, binoculars, fur coat, etc., be registered with customs before leaving to facilitate bringing them back.

DANIA DOINGS



By Vera Nielsen

Nothing going on in August but keep in mind, that the Whist drives will start on Sept. 12 and a Dance on Sept. 15. Then we will have a big night on Oct. 2 to celebrate "DANIA'S" 50 year jubilee. Keep this date in mind. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold. More about this in the next issue.

We are very sorry to hear that one of the visitors from Denmark has taken ill and is in the General Hospital, we wish he a speedy recovery. The lady is a sister to Mrs. Anna Jensen and Jens Arildsen—Mrs. Hulda Hansen from Hjorring.

Hope all the visitors from Denmark are enjoying their stay here in Canada with their friends and relatives.

Good luck and a happy holiday to all that went on the Copenhagen Flight from the Scandinavian Centre. The Oslo Flight came back on June 24. We had a nice letter from Mr. Ronning and Wainwright. We are always happy to hear from the people that participate in these flights.

Dania Soccer

By Tage Aaquist

We are glad to report that the Dania outdoor soccer team is still doing very well this season. They have now played half of their games and are amongst the top in the league with only one game lost and one tied.

From June 16 the games Dania have played and won have been against: M.F.C. Ed. on June 16 (1-2), Lions on June 19 (1-4), V.W. United on June 30 (0-1), Montgomery on July 10 (3-1) and Sherwood Park on July 1 (1-7). They tied against Bristol News on July 4 (1-1).

All the players are doing exceptionally well, both as individual players and, more importantly, as a team, and have managed to score 43 goals in the 11 games played, only totaling 18 goals against. The goal scorers were: Arne Jensen with 7 goals, Peter Jensen also with 7 goals, Fritz Wolf with 6, Walte Mlinaritsch and Alex Szywkin each with 4 goals, Otto Berg, Horst Daffner and John Miller with 3 goals each, Fred and Adolf Schuh with two and finally Kenneth Andersen with one.

Come out and cheer for our team. All games start at 7:00 p.m.

In August, Dania plays:

Aug. 4 in Coronation East against Friends of Berlin
Aug. 11 in Coronation Mai against Adria
Aug. 14 in Kinsmen Park against City Police
Aug. 18 in Coronation Mai against M.F.C. Ed.
Aug. 25 in Coronation Mai against Bristol News
Aug. 28 in Coronation Mai against Northwest

Keep it up, guys!

What's a "Flea Market?"

By Lenore Sills

What is a Flea Market? Many folk think its a place where mass transfer transpires from one junky basement to another. Many people question the dubious origin of the title "Flea Market". Nobody seems to have come up with a suitable answer to either what a Flea Market is, or how it derived its name. The title however, seems to be here to stay as Flea Markets are springing up all over the world.

Four months ago I had never set foot in a Flea Market, having a preconceived idea that it was a collaboration of junk such as I was continually trying to eradicate from our own basement. I would pass this on to my daughter's basement. She in turn would sigh and call a truck to take it "somewhere". When a friend of mine said blithely that she was on her way to PARKVIEW COMMUNITY HALL to attend a Flea Market, I, who was on my way to the symphony, agreed warily that I would go for one-half hour.

So on a wet March day I walked through the door and it was love at first sight. I was fascinated by a smiling lady just inside who proceeded to tell me what Mary Gregory glass was as she held up a beautiful blue glass with a delicate pure white enamelled child painted on it. The child's hands were outstretched to three flying birds and held a peculiar longing or a feeling of being part of nature. I learned the interesting fact that a really rare one would have the action figure sitting down. A true Mary Gregory always has the figures painted pure white, even the faces. Mary Gregory was a spinster decorator for the Sandwich glass company in Boston from 1886-1888, and this glass was produced until 1912. Thus Mary Robinson from Deelers at the Boardwalk started my adventure into the land of antiques. Her freely-given knowledge, along with that of many other interesting stall people, have enriched my way of life and set me on a path where the adventure of human relationships is the most rewarding of all.

Out of this initial beginning steps have been taken to form a class in the fall to help other people learn about the world of yesterday. We have many wonderful folk at Parkview. Mrs. Sunley, Mrs. Buchanan, Kay Peddie, Steve Kovacs and others love to share what they know for this is what the world is all about.

In the middle of the floor at PARKVIEW stands a special table. It is named poetically "The Wild Strawberry Nook". Right away it brings to mind the railway tracks running through a dusty prairie village in the "dirty thirties". Our greatest joy on a Sunday was walking those tracks to find wild strawberries in the early summer. They were buried in prairie grass in the ditches, and half a cupful was a treasure. They were the sweetest strawberries that I have ever tasted. Edwina Hunter had some beautiful wild strawberries . . . treasures in the form of rare and lovely glass, porcelain, antiques and bygones that someone surely had loved. These she imported from England duty free, because hers was a branch of THE OIL SERVICES CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION and the proceeds from her table went to pay for sending medical students into remote and needy areas, helping crippled children find care, and paying the transportation of a very sick young kidney patient to the kidney machine that spells a narrow thread of hope for life. During the past three months I had the privilege of being friends with this remarkable woman, sensing her depth and learning from her fund of knowledge. She passed away on July 8, after phoning me that a new and lovely shipment had just arrived. She was a

person who cared for others. Now, other "caring" people will man her table.

This Flea Market began for me as an adventure in knowledge. It has become an adventure where the knowledge of the heart is the greatest of all. It has taught me more of what I already knew, that people basically are good.

I had become interested in those whose kidneys have been destroyed or damaged by infection, disease or injury. Whatever the cause of damage, if it be great enough, the patient loses kidney function and sometimes finds himself with no kidneys at all. Then he lives hooked to a kidney machine much of the time or he dies. Life is filled with grey shadows and little sunshine for such a human being. Even if a body is kept alive the heart must sometimes sing, or life is ashes. At the beginning the thought struck . . . while on the machine for hours a week why couldn't those patients who wanted to, while away the time by crafts that they could handle easily? Some might crochet, some perhaps paint, make attractive ornaments. Here in the Flea Market could be a place to market and augment a sometimes curtailed income. The Kidney Patients' Association could work together and help each other. It would be a way to raise a little where the patients themselves could benefit, identification bracelets and needs too numerous to mention. Most important though, these people, with little social life because of their confined existence, could find warmth and the thrill of being with interested and caring people.

With the first Flea Market in May, Mr. and Mrs. Alois Schmid arrived with volunteer hospital staff to set up shop. Hastily odds and ends had been gathered to donate to their table the proceeds of which were to go to the Kidney Patients' Association. They had little to sell but they were in business. Mrs. Schmid had made some darling bird mobiles that have proved popular with many doctors' offices, and many children go to sleep at night watching her beautiful birds. The big item on sale that Sunday has proven to be most popular. In their haste to find something to sell, the nurses had washed out several big, plastic solution bags . . . very strong because they hold precious life-giving fluid. These make marvelous picnic jugs, footstools, spare seats, ice blocks when frozen and take up little space as they collapse when not in use. They sell for \$1.00. Donations of used household articles have been astonishing.

The latest, and very exciting, donation is a set of matched elk horns bleached by sun and sand in the Kootenays, and an authentic Indian totem pole. All of a sudden Mrs. Schmid has come alive. People stop to smile. People are interested in her as a person, not just another number attached to a machine. The money she gets from her birds is hers. The money that comes from donated items goes to the Patients' Society. The Keiths (kidney patients) make absolutely gorgeous candles, unique in quality and design. The Schmids, with the help of interested people, were the pioneers. Now Mrs. Schmid has to have one kidney and her spleen removed. We, of Parkview, wish her well. She said to me as she phoned me the news, "I have to get well so that I can come back to the Flea Market, I have met so many wonderful people there."

Mr. and Mrs. Bacon are manning the table while she is on leave. Hopefully other patients will become involved both with their own work and for each other. Mrs. Bacon is a transplant patient and her husband, Elmer, is the hard working President of the Kidney Patients' Association. Mrs. Bacon says her transplant was a miracle, and freed her from the machine. Not all are so

lucky. Much research has to be done to discover the anti-reject factor that is needed by many before their bodies will accept a strange organ. The management also gives some of its proceeds for work in the kidney field. There is a firm belief that whatever is freely given of time, energy and love comes back a thousand times.

Another great point of interest at this Flea Market is Wynne MacRae's china registry. Wynne is a charming lady who would be glad to assist you in finding that replacement for the plate that belonged to your aunt Sarah and you dropped as you answered the telephone. Or, if you have odd china from sets that are no longer made, and wish to sell these, she has customers waiting. She registers your pattern and if a match arrives, calls or writes you.

Marguerite McKay has collected dolls for three years and sells all sorts of collectables, Canadiana and bric-a-brac so that she can buy more dolls. She has one that is over two hundred years old. A little girl I know has begun a collection of her own through Marguerite's interest.

Another lady makes exquisite pettipoint . . . the list is endless.

You may be greeted at the door by our students who sell flowers as part of their summer employment program. The smile they give you is meant to be returned or passed on. It is not for sale, it is even impossible to give away for it always returns.

Kevin Taft will make you the cup of coffee you will enjoy as you visit an old friend or rest awhile. He is a junior achievement high school award winner, and his summer job is to make you comfortable when you're hungry. He loves it, too.

So the Flea Market is a tear . . . as you pause and wonder who tucked the needle into the back of an old sewing basket, for sale now that the fingers that mended it by lamplight, are still. A little mug sits on someone's table. The lovely lady at the counter smiles. Perhaps the hands that held the mug are now piloting a plane or driving a train on its last trip. Perhaps they sell strawberries. Who knows what a Flea Market is? A tear, a smile, a memory, or . . . a rainbow.

Love to you all.

Lenore Sills
PARKVIEW FLEA MARKET
9135 - 146 Street
August 13th and 27th

News from Norway

Composer Arne Nordheim is writing a new work commissioned by the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. Called Greening For Orchestra, it will be performed three times in subscription concerts to be played in September under the baton of Zubin Metha. Later, Mr. Nordheim will appear with the orchestra of Tucson, Arizona, where the Los Angeles Symphony will be orchestra-in-residence at the University of Arizona for a limited time. Mr. Nordheim will explain his music to concert audiences.

Norway's National Report to the United Nations' Conference on the Human Environment

This booklet contains a review of the main environmental matters and a look at past and future action in environmental matters and a description of priorities for international action. Map. (Published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and available from the Norwegian Information Service in the United States, 825 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Free.)

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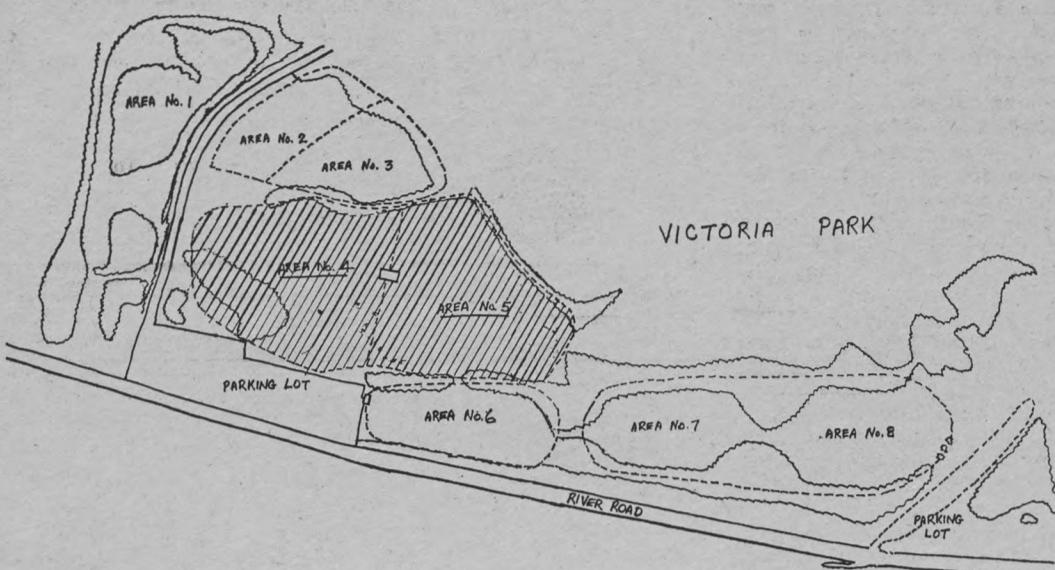
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SUNDAY AUGUST 13, 1972

PROGRAM

- 1:00 p.m. — Horse Shoe Tournament
— Fast Ball
- 3:00 p.m. — Races (all kinds), games, etc.
— Refreshments for the kiddies
— Hot Dogs available

Pack your picnic basket and come as you are for

AN OLD FASHIONED PICNIC

In case of rain the location will be at
The Scandinavian Centre

Edmonton Aug. 11 Itinerary

The members of the Reykjavik City Band and their wives will be billeted in private homes during their overnight visit to Edmonton. Their train will arrive from Winnipeg at 11:30 a.m. at the C.N. station where they will be met by their hosts and taken to their homes for lunch. The afternoon will be free for the guests to rest or go sight-seeing.

The band will be performing in the bandshell at the Legislative grounds at 5:30 p.m. Following this there will be a reception at the Scandinavian Centre with dinner commencing at 7:30 p.m. A short program will fol-

low with entertainment by Bill Bourne and his sister, Marie Chaumont, singing "My Forefathers Came From Iceland"—a song written by Marie. Bill and Marie are the great grand children of the Icelandic poet, Stephen G. Stephanson. The visitors will be welcomed by a representative from the provincial government, the city and the Icelandic Society. Also featured will be the Saga Singers.

The tour group will have brunch with their hosts on Saturday and then assemble at the Scandinavian Centre for departure at 12:00 p.m. noon for the program at Markerville.

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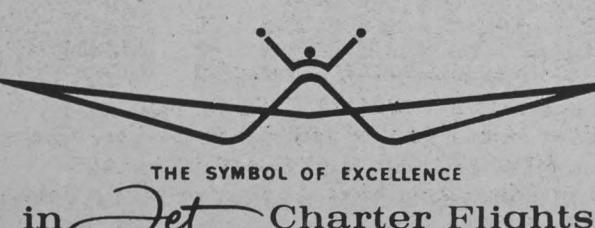
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ICELANDIC BAND TO PAY HOMAGE AT MARKERVILLE

The Reykjavik City Band will leave Edmonton at approximately 12:30 p.m. and go to Red Deer on Sat., Aug. 12 and then to Markerville. The purpose of the stop at Red Deer is to pick up Mrs. Rosa Benediktsson, the youngest daughter of Stephan G. Stephanson, the poet who is so highly regarded in Iceland.

At Markerville, the band will pay homage to the poet's memory with music, a brief address and a floral tribute. This is the highlight of the band tour and may have TV coverage. The band members will also visit the farm home of Stephan G. Stephanson. Before leaving Markerville the group will be served lunch in the community hall.

To get to Markerville from the south, turn west at Innisfail and follow the paved highway (54) till you see the sign to Markerville. If you are coming from the north, turn west at the Pine Lake road (highway 42) which is roughly 6 miles south of Red Deer. Go west about 15 miles on this gravel road, turn south at sign saying "DEADEND". This road takes you right into the town.

Who's Coming?

NAMES OF THOSE COMING WITH THE REYKJAVIK CITY BAND

- Mr. & Mrs. Pall Palson (Astridur) — Conductor
- Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Einarsson (Ingibjorg) — President
- Master Oddur Bjornsson — their 12-year-old son
- Mr. & Mrs. Magnus Sigurjonsson (Agusta) — Vice President
- Mr. & Mrs. Olafur Gislason (Fjola) — Treasurer
- Mr. & Mrs. Gudmundur Nordahl (Thordis) — President of the Travel Committee
- Mr. & Mrs. Halldor Einarsson (Steinthora) — Secretary of the Travel Committee
- Mr. & Mrs. Arni Elfar (Kristjana)
- Mr. & Mrs. Thorir Benediktsson (Hulda)
- Mr. & Mrs. Gudjon Einarsson (Thordis)
- Mr. & Mrs. Stigur Herlufsen (Thorbjorg)
- Mr. & Mrs. Gunnar Ormslev (Margret)
- Mr. & Mrs. Jonas Dagbjartsson (Ingrid)
- Mr. & Mrs. Brynjar Gunnarsson (Nanna)

Mr. & Mrs. Kristjan Jonsson

(Sigridur)

Mr. & Mrs. Finnur Jonsson

(Thorunn)

Mr. & Mrs. Vilhjalmur

Gudjonsson (Asta)

Mr. & Mrs. Bragi Einarsson

(Margret)

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Sigurdsson

(Arny)

Mr. & Mrs. Sverrir Steinsson

(Gudrun)

Mr. & Mrs. Vilberg Juliusson

(Palina)

Mr. & Mrs. Reynir Sigurdsson

(Unnur)

Mr. Eysteinn Jonasson —

Secretary

Mr. Valtry Bjornsson

Mr. Thorvaldur Steingrimsson

Mr. Jon Hjalton

Mr. Larus Grimsson

Mr. Hreidar Sigurjonsson

Mr. Gisli Gudmundsson — Tour

Leader

Full Itinerary

CANADA—USA TOUR AUGUST 1972

Wed., Aug. 2: With PAN AM from Reykjavik to Minneapolis

Thurs., Aug. 3: In Minneapolis, sightseeing in afternoon

Fri., Aug. 4: By bus to Icelandic settlements in North Dakota, overnight in Cavalier area

Sat., Aug. 5: North to Gimli, Man., and overnight there

Sun., Aug. 6: Afternoon excursion to Hecla Island and Riverton, same overnight

Mon., Aug. 7: Icelandic Festival at Gimli, same overnight

Tues., Aug. 8: Afternoon excursion to Arborg and Lundar and from there to Winnipeg, overnight there

Wed., Aug. 9: In Winnipeg, afternoon concert and sightseeing.

Thurs., Aug. 10: Day spent in Winnipeg. In the evening by CN train to Edmonton

Fri., Aug. 11: In Edmonton, concert and reception in evening. Same overnight

Sat., Aug. 12: South to Markerville. Program. Red Deer overnight

Sun., Aug. 13: South to Calgary, reception and concert. Same overnight

Mon., Aug. 14: West by bus through Banff, Lake Louise and Rogers Pass, overnight in Salmon Arm area

Tues., Aug. 15: A day of leisure in Salmon Arm area, same overnight

Wed., Aug. 16: West through Fraser Canyon to Vancouver and overnight

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Aug. 17, 18 & 19: In Vancouver. Program for these three days not yet definite. A concert at Hofn and an excursion to Vancouver Island planned.

Sun., Aug. 20: South by bus to Blaine and a stop at Stafholt then to Seattle and overnight there.

Mon. & Tues., Aug. 21 & 22: In Seattle, program not definite yet. Sightseeing on first day, second day likely free.

Wed., Aug. 23: With PAN AM either direct to Reykjavik or through New York to Reykjavik.

Poet's Point

HANDS

by Lenore Sills

Hands

Are the expression of the soul,

The interpretation of the mind.

They hold tenderness

As a new born's fingers

Curve

Around a man's,

Or a small child's finger

Traces a tear.

Hands are the comfort of a

mother,

A physician,

A lover—

Coolness when we are ill,

Strength

To hold.

Hands

Are the music makers of the

earth.

They dig, chisel, cut bone

And sew.

They tease.

Play an enormous instrument

With infinite delicacy.

A fist is closed in anger,

But the open hand can pluck the

heartstrings.

Hands

Are the bread bakers, the earth

mothers . . .

Gnarled, twisted, smooth, hard,

dimpled,

Sensing wonder.

Hands

Wield the blowtorch pen,

The artist's sword

And spectrum brush.

Hands

Are a glad hello

And a many-curved good-bye.

Hands

Are time-moulded

Sculptures

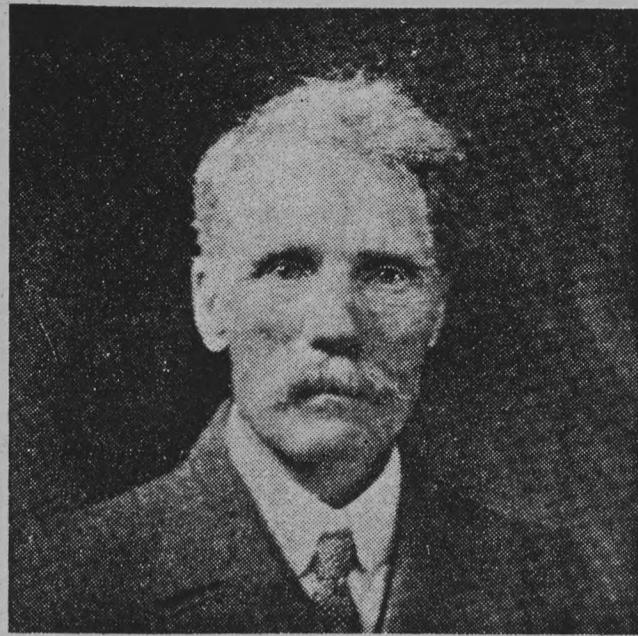
Of destiny.

SMILE?

The cure of crime is not the electric chair, but the high chair.

—J. Edgar Hoover.

Laud Stephanson - pioneer poet



plain, unpretentious man with face that looks like it was carved out of granite. Nevertheless a kind and understanding

This article about Stephan G. Stephanson is from the MARKERVILLE STORY" by Karl Morkeberg. It was serialized in the RED DEER DEDICATE in 1968.)

Stephan G. Stephanson, the great Icelandic poet was amongst the second group of Icelanders that arrived at Markerville in 1889. He was twenty years of age when he left Iceland to migrate to the United States and to be more exact the state of Wisconsin. His birth place was on a small farm named Kirkjuholl, in the parish of Hagafjordur, in the community of Akureyri on the north coast of Iceland. Poverty was his lot in his youth and the unproductive farm where he was born and spent the first twenty years of his life has been abandoned long ago and allowed to go back to wilderness.

With such a background it is little wonder that he was able to live the life of an early pioneer, denying himself all the luxuries of life and many of the necessities as well. Yet he did all this without any grumbling or complaining, taking it all in his stride at all times, striving and hoping for better things to come.

When he first came to Wisconsin he hired out as a day laborer near Milwaukee. He boarded his money, little as it was and at the end of a year set out for Shawano County, Wisconsin, where he met his future wife and it was there that he was married. He and his wife, Helga, lived the life of pioneer settlers for six years at this place and then in 1880 moved to Embina County, North Dakota, where they pioneered for another nine years. During these fifteen years the first part of their family were born.

When Stephan G. and his wife came here, hardship, privation and adversity was not a new experience for them and I often wonder how they, along with the rest of the Icelanders that came with them, had the intestinal fortitude to stick it out. I guess the answer would be this: they had no choice, because they did not have the where-with-all to pick up and get away from it all even if they wanted to.

Stephan G. could rightly be called a frontier farmer but he had another attribute. He was a frontier farmer with a keen mind and a keen insight and understanding of not only Norse mythology but everyday world affairs as well. He was a rugged individualist, a champion of the underdog, a hater of war and all that it stood for. He got himself into trouble during the First Great War with his outspoken trades against the war profiteers. Here is an example of a poem he wrote at that time:

In Europe's reeking slaughter pen,
they mince the flesh of murdered men,

man who always had time to talk to little children. Posterior will prove his worth.

While greedy merchants, snout in trough,
Drink all the bloody profits off."

This kind of talk was looked upon with disfavor by the flag-waving patriots of that era and he was even accused of being in sympathy with the enemy. This was not the case. There was not a more dedicated Canadian than Stephan G. Stephanson but he was definitely not an imperialist. He was accused by many of being a free thinker, of being a Unitarian, of being an avowed Socialist. He was in fact none of these. He was at heart a deeply religious man. His writing ran contrary to what was then considered the only way. His hostility to the bigotry, the gypocracy and the narrow-mindedness of many of the established churches and their clergy was well known. His ability to assail them with his pen kept them in a continual state of torment. A large well worn Bible stood on his desk where he did all his writing and was in constant use.

Many people have the idea that Stephan G. composed all of his poetry at Markerville. Such was not the case. He was writing poetry before he left Iceland at the age of twenty. He wrote prolifically during the fifteen years that he was in Wisconsin and North Dakota but as far as I know none of it came out in book form until sometime after he came to Markerville.

Stephan G. had very little formal education. Like many Icelanders of that era that lived in the wild hinterland of that little country, their only opportunity to get any book learning was from the itinerant Icelandic Lutheran minister that travelled around on horseback to teach the young people their catechism so that they could get prepared for their confirmation. Like most Icelanders he was an avid reader and thirsty for knowledge.

One of his ancestors was Benedikt Grundal a famous Icelandic poet of an earlier era. It is probably from him that he inherited his gift. Not one of Stephan G.'s off-springs have shown the slightest sign that they had a gift for writing poetry and this even extends down to the present generation.

Most of Stephan G.'s writings were done at night by the light of a coal oil lamp. He kept himself warm with a small wood burning stove.

In the winter time when the ink started to freeze and his fingers started to become numb he knew it was time to get busy and replenish the fire. He would become so wrapped up in what he was doing that the house could have come crashing down around his ears. As long as it did not interfere with him in his little study he would never hear it.

His published articles and writings total 1400 pages and his

published poems, 1800 pages. A tremendous amount of material for a man who had to do hard manual labor for about the first twenty years, in order to earn his daily bread for himself and his family.

Along about 1890 or '91 Stephan G. took a job with a C.P.R. survey gang in order to make a few dollars to buy the bare necessities of life. In 1889 on October 5th, twin girls were born to Helga and Stephan. They were named Fanny and Jenny. Later Fanny became Mrs. Arnie Bardal and Jenny became Mrs. Siggi Sigurdson. As far as I know they were the first children born to any of the Icelanders in the new settlement. If they were not the first babies born, they were the first twins born that is one thing I am sure of.

It is interesting to note that Stephan's pay while a member of the survey gang was \$2 per day out of which he had to pay his board. It was not much but at least it was money. A \$10 bill does not seem like much if you have it. It's when you have not that it seems like a lot of money.

Stephan was one of the prime movers in getting the first school started at Hola in 1894. He was the guiding hand that got the creamery started in 1899. The community hall in 1907, the new Icelandic library (The Idun Reading Society) the same year.

He was ever ready to help any project that was worthy to the extent of his limited resources. Stephan never made any money out of his efforts and I honestly do not think that he ever had a thousand dollars at one time that he could call his own in all his life. Money was the farthest thing from his mind.

He passed away in August 1927 and was laid away in an oak casket made by his friend, George Stephenson, of Red Deer. In keeping with an old Icelandic custom followed by many of the early Icelanders, the coffin was made many years in advance.

He was laid to rest in the family cemetery on the bank of the Medicine River about a half a mile from where his own home was and where he wrote much of his poetry. His study overlooked the Medicine at one of its most beautiful spots. His friends in Canada, the United States and in Iceland as well, erected a monument to his honor on the site of his grave. In 1949 the Historical Sites and Monuments Society erected a cairn in his honor at the Markerville Community Park. On the plaque is inscribed the last verse of a poem he wrote while in Wisconsin:

"And when the last of all my
The last page turned,
And whatever shall be deemed
in wages

That I have earned,
In such a mood I hope to be
composing
My sweetest lay
And then extend my hand to
all the world
And pass away."

day is over,
In 1955 his youngest daughter, Rosa (Mrs. S. V. Benediktson), was extended an invitation by the government of Iceland to go to Iceland as their guest, to officiate at the unveiling of a monument erected at Akureyri to the memory of her father.

Little did we realize or appreciate what a genius we had as a neighbour and a friend. During the declining years of his life he received many honors from his native land and in the recent years his works have become classics in the literary world. He is recognized as the greatest poet that Iceland has ever produced, as future ages will probably prove, quoting from Dr. Watson Kirconnell. (He will some day be acknowledged as the earliest poet of first rank, writing in any language to emerge in the national life of Canada.)

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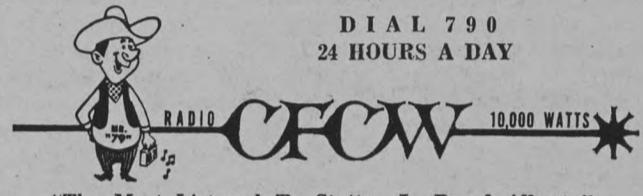
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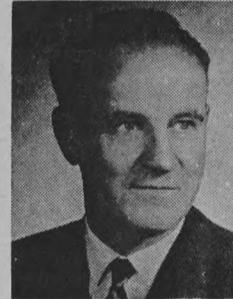
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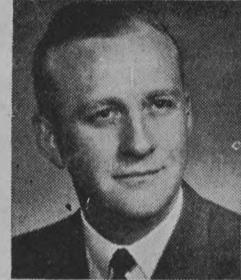


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Scandinavian History and Culture Probed

NORWEGIAN PROGRAM/EARLY SETTLERS, GIMLI

OLAF SVEEN: Dr. Bourassa, the last time we were together you said you would like to talk about some of the early Scandinavian settlements in Canada. We managed to collect some information on this topic; have you had a chance to read it over?

DR. BOURASSA: Yes, Mr. Sveen, I have read it over. I know we both want to thank the people who made this information available. In many cases people have loaned us rare material from their own libraries and it has been fascinating to read about the early Scandinavian immigrants. On later programs we will talk about some of the settlers here in Alberta but I thought we might talk about the first major settlements of Scandinavians in Canada.

OLAF SVEEN: What was the first big settlement of the Scandinavians in Canada and which country did they come from?

DR. BOURASSA: They came from Iceland. The settlement was, as you might guess, called New Iceland and the town was called Gimli.

OLAF SVEEN: Gimli is a term from Norse mythology. What does it mean?

DR. BOURASSA: The meaning of the word is not completely clear. It has something to do with the Norse idea of heaven, or possibly the new world which was supposed to come into being after Ragnarok. In any case, Gimli was supposed to be a pleasant state of affairs and so this name was chosen.

OLAF SVEEN: And where exactly is Gimli?

DR. BOURASSA: It is a city in Manitoba, north of Winnipeg, on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

OLAF SVEEN: And how did the Icelanders come to settle there?

DR. BOURASSA: That is an interesting story. An Icelander called Sighyggur Jonasson came to Canada in 1872 to seek out an area for an Icelandic settlement. The first settlers came to Kinmount, Ontario, in 1874 but were unable to find suitable land or work. Jonasson and others, helped by John Taylor of the British Canadian Bible Society, explored westward into Manitoba. At that time, the otherwise desirable Red River valley was suffering from a plague of grasshoppers. According to reports the dead grasshoppers were piled several feet deep. Finally a guide showed them the west shore of Lake Winnipeg. There was timber—like moose—birds—fruit, fish and so on, so they decided to make this the home of their colony.

There were difficulties in moving to this area, however. The Canadian government had funds to help immigrants get into Canada, but had no funds to help moving colonies of immigrants from one area to another within Canada. The Icelanders were fortunate to receive help from Lord Dufferin who was the Governor General of Canada at that time. He had visited Iceland himself and in fact, had written a book about his visit called "Letters From High Latitudes". He was much impressed by the Icelanders, and did all he could to help them, and with his aid money was obtained from the government to get the Icelanders to their new home on Lake Winnipeg.

The journey to New Iceland was not an easy one. The settlers travelled by train from Toronto to Sarnia, by boat to Duluth,

where they were joined by a group from Minnesota. Then they went overland to Fisher's Landing on the Red River and by steamer to Winnipeg. Apparently their arrival in Winnipeg created interest as the Winnipegs expected to see short, swarthy, stocky uncivilized people no more than four feet tall. Whether they were disappointed or pleased is not known. From Winnipeg they went by steamer to Lake Winnipeg but, because the captain of the ship feared a fall cold snap, they were landed short of their destination — at Willow Point, on a boggy shore. This was on October 21, 1875.

OLAF SVEEN: That is late in the year to be starting a homestead.

DR. BOURASSA: Yes, it is. It was by no means a pleasant winter. Several log cabins were made, although the Icelanders were far from experts with an axe as such skills would not be developed in their homeland. These cabins were about 12 feet by 16 feet and usually shared by two families who had also shared in buying a stove. Many people lived the winter in buffalo hide tents borrowed from the Hudson's Bay Company. In fact, the first child, John Johannson, to be born in the colony might have been born in one of these tents.

Supplies were low that winter, which was one of the coldest in that area. Fishing methods that were used in Iceland proved to be ineffective in the new country and had to be changed. Milk was extremely scarce and scurvy and exposure took a heavy toll of the colonists.

Things did not improve rapidly either. In spring the homesteads were started and many of the colonists, wives or husbands, whichever could be spared, went to Winnipeg to earn additional money. The first summer in 1876 was dreadful. There were several storms, snow in July, the level of the lake rose and flooded many of the hay meadows. Crops were poor to say the least. Fall came in with gale winds and on October 5th a snowfall of 8 inches was recorded. In the fall of the following year, that is 1877, a smallpox epidemic killed 102 individuals, mostly children. Things were not so good in Iceland either, though, as there were volcanic eruptions, so some colonists continued to arrive. Despite occasional good years living remained difficult.

About 1881 there were only 250 people left, but in 1883 immigration revived and in 1891 there were about 1500 in the colony. I should mention that other people also came to this area and the Poles and Ukrainians were vitally important in sustaining the town. In 1905 the railroad reached Gimli and the town has been with us ever since. In fact 1975 will be the 100th anniversary of the settlement of New Iceland. It was in 1881, that is 6 years after the settlement was started, that the Manitoba border was moved north to include New Iceland and it was not until 1887, that is 12 years after settlement, that a standard municipal government was formed.

OLAF SVEEN: But if 'New Iceland' wasn't in Manitoba what kind of government did it have?

DR. BOURASSA: That's another interesting story. The colonists wanted to preserve their language and customs and wanted to set up their own form of gov-

ernment. They did in fact set up a kind of sovereign republic state within Canada, that was sanctioned by the Canadian Government.

The form of government in New Iceland was very similar to the form of government used in Iceland in the Viking times. We don't have time to draw out all the parallels but those who remember our earlier programs on the forms of government in Viking times will see the similarities. To formulate the constitution, two 5-man groups from the largest settlements were chosen and worked independently before meeting to settle on the final draft. Basically the colony was divided into four sections. Each section elected five men one of which was a 'president'. The four 'presidents' formed a council for the whole district. The revised constitution of 1878 gave the vote to all males over 18 who owned property or were employed and of unblemished reputation. The public was expected to attend meetings, do various labours needed by the community, such as road or bridge building, look after widows or orphans and so on. In order that everyone could be informed, a newspaper was established very early in the colony's history. The first issue was September 1st, 1877, only two years after the first colonists landed. The constitution also provided for extensive record keeping in five books. These books contained information on meetings, census figures, road building and improvement, births, deaths, marriages, etc.

Remember that the constitution and newspaper were coming into existence in a period of extremely tough going for the colonists. This says a good deal about the spirit of such people.

Something that may appear odd is that the constitution had no provisions for a criminal code or for education. It is apparent from this that the colonists felt such matters were so clear cut and obvious that it was unnecessary to speak of them in the constitution. The nearest thing to a mechanism for dealing with criminals were two officials called the 'arbitrator' and the 'peacemaker'. They mediated disputes. If they failed, a 5-man committee was made up. Two men were named to the committee by each side of the dispute and a fifth man was a chairman who was mutually agreed on by both sides. This is curiously similar to the arrangement used in many universities to settle disputes between staff and administration.

As I mentioned, education was not dealt with specifically in the constitution but it was clearly important. In fact the first school was started the winter the colonists first arrived. The first teacher was Caroline Taylor, the niece of John Taylor who had done so much to help the colonists. Caroline Taylor later married one of the colonists, Sigurdur Kristoferson. This was during the smallpox epidemic and because of the quarantine, the minister had to stand on the opposite bank of the river to perform the ceremony. But that gets us away from the main point which is that schools were started immediately and education was an important aspect of forming a self-governing republic.

OLAF SVEEN: I suppose that

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many settlers must finally have left 'New Iceland' to settle down in other parts of Canada.

DR. BOURASSA: Yes, that's certainly true. Some claim that Gimli was the mother of most other Icelandic settlements in Canada. There is much more that could be said about the town but our purpose isn't really to try to give a complete history but rather to say a little about the early history of Scandinavian settlers in Canada. I might mention that other Governor Generals have visited Gimli. Baron Tweedsmuir was there in 1936 and the Earl of Athlone in 1945. Baron Tweedsmuir might be better known to some of our readers as John Buchan. He wrote a number of popular adventure stories in the early part of the century. One of his characters was Richard Hannay, a kind of early day cleaner-living James Bond. The reason I bring this up, is that one of Buchan's books, "The Isle Of Sheep" involves a Scandinavian who is being hounded by criminals, for reasons which escape me right now. Anyway, in that book Buchan reveals a very thorough knowledge of Norse mythology and the Icelandic Saga literature, so he, like Lord Dufferin, must have been knowledgeable about the Scandinavians. Perhaps I can close by quoting from Lord Dufferin's speech when he visited Gimli. He said, "No race has a better right to come amongst us than you, for the world is indebted to you for the discovery of this continent."